



# HIGHLINE HIGHLIGHTS

## What YOU Need to Know

January 26, 2012

**R**ESPONSIBILITY  
**E**MPOWERMENT  
**A**SPIRATION  
**C**ITIZENSHIP  
**H**ONESTY

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Highline Academy has long envisioned bringing our Mission and Vision, Core Values and educational model to the greatest number of students possible in metro Denver. Since we opened our doors we've steadily increased the number of students served, especially with the addition of the middle school, all the while maintaining our small-school feel and environment.

Still, our Board, Administration, and Advisory Board recognize the critical and continuing need throughout our district for seats in high-quality schools of choice. With this need in mind, we have spent several months engaged in research and working with experts to explore the possibility of replicating Highline's model and opening a second campus.

After careful consideration, we have decided to begin the process of formally pursuing replication. This will be a long term project with the goal of submitting an application for replication with Denver Public Schools in April 2013. That may seem like a long way off, but we do need to begin laying the groundwork now. As a matter of best practice, our first step will be hiring a principal-in-residence to work alongside our current principal; leadership development is a vital component of both the ongoing success of our school and the future opportunity to offer another high-quality learning environment to Denver families. We will begin the hiring process soon and will actively seek candidates from our existing team of Highline staff.

The Board and Administration will continue to update you regarding our progress as we move forward on this exciting, strategic project. And, rest assured this will not impact our commitment to our current students nor affect the continued success of our school.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Gregg Gonzales, Principal  
Tom Bulger, Board President  
Jennifer Holladay, Board Vice-President

Please join the Board at our regular monthly meetings, held the second Monday of every month at 6:15 p.m. in the school community room. The February agenda will include a proposed budget for the next school year.

## IMPORTANT DATES

January 27<sup>th</sup>, Middle School Dance

February 6<sup>th</sup>, PWP Meeting – 7:00pm

February 7<sup>th</sup>, Restaurant Night, Noodles & Company – (I-25 & Hampden)

February 13<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting – 6:15pm

February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 3rd Grade TCAP Testing

February 17<sup>th</sup> – February 20<sup>th</sup>, NO SCHOOL – President's Day Weekend

February 24<sup>th</sup>, Elementary School Dance

March 10<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent Auction

## GENERAL SCHOOL REMINDERS AND UPDATES

**SIBLING PRIORITY Enrollment DEADLINE:** The SchoolChoice application deadline is Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. All applications must be dropped off in person.

If you have a sibling of a currently enrolled student that you would like to enroll for next year you will need to fill out and submit a SchoolChoice form. Forms are available on our web site at [www.highlineacademy.org](http://www.highlineacademy.org), on the DPS web site at <http://schoolchoice.dpsk12.org/>, and in the front office.

Currently enrolled students do not have to fill out a SchoolChoice form to return to Highline next year.

If you need any help navigating the new system please call Faye in the front office at 303-759-7808 x1101 or call the DPS SchoolChoice office.

**Middle School Dance:** Don't forget the middle school dance is tomorrow, January 27th from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Gym. Put on your dancing shoes and pick a cool outfit! Enter and pick up through the community room doors at the back of the building. The \$5 per person ticket price is payable at the door. Donations for store bought and nut free snacks & refreshments are still welcome and can be dropped off at the front office. **This event is for Highline Academy Middle school students only.**

**Highline ROCKS! Silent Auction 2012:** Mark your calendars now for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual silent auction, Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Need a sitter? Kids' Adventures is sponsoring the auction this year by offering child care for \$5 per child to cover the cost of pizza. So send your kids in their pj's to hang with their friends while you enjoy an evening out supporting Highline. You will need to make a reservation with Kids' Adventures. Check out their web site at [www.kidsadventures.org](http://www.kidsadventures.org) for more information.

Thank you to all who have stepped up to help with the auction. The most critical needs at this time are donations to auction and sponsors.

Donation forms went home last week in Thursday folders. When you need more you can find a request letter and donation form on our web site at [www.highlineacademy.org](http://www.highlineacademy.org), (click on the auction tab at the top of the page) or in the front office. Keep them handy so when you are going about your day you can ask for donations from the businesses you support.

Corporate Sponsorships: Think about the company you work for and companies you do business with, do they support education? Are they looking for a way to increase business? Would they match a cash donation made by you? There are several levels of sponsorship and they are not all for corporations! Maybe you can't make the auction this year but would still like to participate, then a sponsorship may be just the thing for you. Be sure to look for the corporate donor letter and sponsorship form at [www.highlineacademy.org](http://www.highlineacademy.org), under the auction tab or in the front office.

If you have any auction questions, email the auction committee at [highlineauction@gmail.com](mailto:highlineauction@gmail.com).

**Volunteer Opportunity:** The uniform closet is looking for 2 volunteers to work every other week for 45 minutes either before or after school. It's a fun way to meet other parents and help them shop for their kids uniform needs. Please contact Karla Henke @ 303.947.3944 or [karladhenke@gmail.com](mailto:karladhenke@gmail.com)

**TCAP Replacing CSAP:** As Colorado schools transition to the new Colorado Academic Standards (the National Common Core standards that Highline has already adopted for reading, writing, and math), a transitional version of the state assessment called the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) has been adopted by the State of Colorado. The TCAP is similar to the CSAP in all respects, except that it no longer assesses many academic standards that are not a part of the new Colorado Academic Standards. Just like CSAP, the overall purpose of the TCAP is to measure the progress of Colorado students over time. In addition to updated state content standards, the department is currently developing a new state assessment system currently scheduled to be implemented during the 2013-2014 school year. This new system will reflect the expectations of the updated standards. Until the new state assessment systems is in place, the TCAP will still be aligned to the previous Colorado Model Content Standards AND will be given to students during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic school years.

**3rd Grade Reading TCAP:** February 15th and 16th.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade TCAP:** March 6th – 15th.

**Shout Out:** Way to go Highline Semantics club in the Spelling Bee today! Our top 3 spellers were Madeline Stein, Emma Tammaro and Nana Osei-Fordwuo. Nana took 5<sup>th</sup> place overall! Awesome job Highline, you ROCK!

**Staff Parking Lot:** Please remember that the staff parking lot (on the west side of Dahlia) is not for picking up your students or dropping them off. Use carline or **park** on Warren Street. The auction parking spaces are **reserved!** If you like the reserved spots come to the auction on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> and bid on them for next year!!

**Girls on the Run:** Girls on the Run inspires girls to a lifetime of self-respect and a healthy lifestyle through an innovative program that combines training for a 3.1 mile run/walk race with a fun, health education lesson plan. Girls on the Run will begin the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>, and will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Girls on the Run is open to all 3rd through 8th grade girls. Registration information is coming in February. For more information about the program, visit their web site at [www.girlsontherunrockies.org](http://www.girlsontherunrockies.org). Questions? Contact: Julie Thibodeau 303-759-7808 x1111. If you would like to coach, contact Christy Jones at [christy\\_gotr@comcast.net](mailto:christy_gotr@comcast.net).

**Jump Rope for Heart:** Jump Rope for Heart is February 21, 22, & 23 during Gym class. Last year, we raised \$1,200.00. I hope we can reach above and beyond what we raised last year.

The envelope containing the information was sent home to students on December 20, 2011, and needs to be filled out and returned before February 21st 2012. Any amount of money (help), will be gratefully

appreciated (cash or check), or visit [www.heart.org/jump](http://www.heart.org/jump), in order to get started today!

**Activity Schedule:**

February 21st - (A) - Fifth Grade (8:00 am)

February 21st - (A) - First Grade (8:45 am)

February 21st - (A) - Second Grade (10:15 am)

February 22nd - (B) - Fourth Grade (8:45 am)

February 23rd - (C) Third Grade (8:00 am)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. A. at 303-759-7808 x1602.

**Weather Related Closures and Delays:** Highline Academy Charter School will follow all school closures and delays made by Denver Public Schools. Broadcasts are usually made by 6:00am on the three major news networks and periodically thereafter until 9:00am. When DPS district schools are closed, all school-sponsored activities, including the before and after school program are canceled.

In situations where weather may cause a school closure and Denver Public Schools has a planned, non-student contact day (either for a holiday or for teacher in-service) and Highline Academy Charter School is otherwise scheduled to be open, the principal will make a decision about whether school will be closed. In this case, information about Highline Academy Charter School specifically will be broadcast by 6:00am on the three major news networks on the day of the closure. In addition, room parents will be notified.

When DPS calls a late start opening due to weather-related delays, Highline Academy Charter School will also have a delay and will start at 9:00am. Dismissal time will be 3:30pm as usual. The school will follow a prescribed delayed start schedule. Students will report to their homerooms for attendance from 9:00-9:10, and will then proceed to their normally scheduled 9:00 class (literacy for grades K-5) and proceed as scheduled from there.

On delayed start days, Kids' Adventures is not available for before school care.

If a snow day is predicted you need to plan accordingly and leave home a little early to allow for the conditions. Weather related tardies are not always excused.

If it becomes necessary for the welfare of our students to close school during the day or to delay a school dismissal, an emergency Once Call will be put into effect. We ask families to prepare for this possibility in advance by filing out the Emergency Card with the office and keeping it current.

**Grocery Cards:** Don't forget to keep re-loading your King Sooper and Whole Foods cards. You can always purchase King Sooper, Whole Foods, Sunflower Market and Sprouts cards in car line on Fridays or from the front office.